



you and your future



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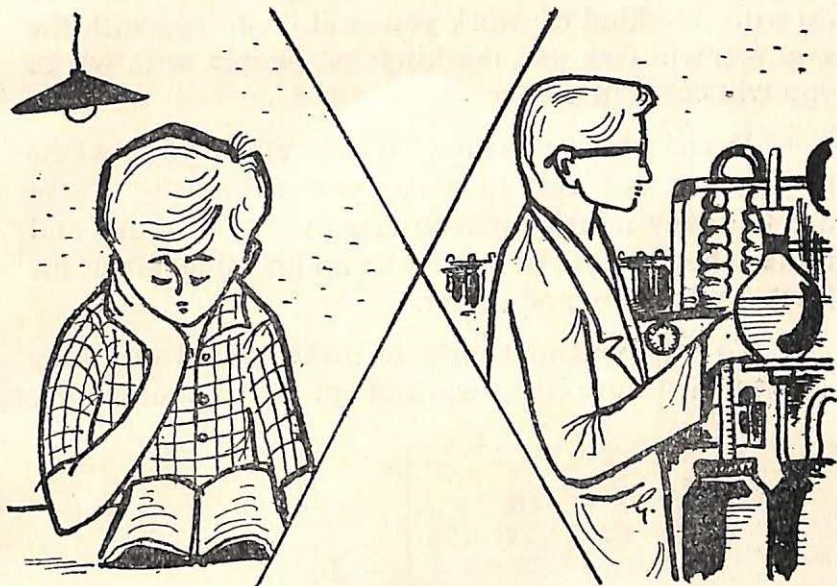
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You : Today and To-morrow

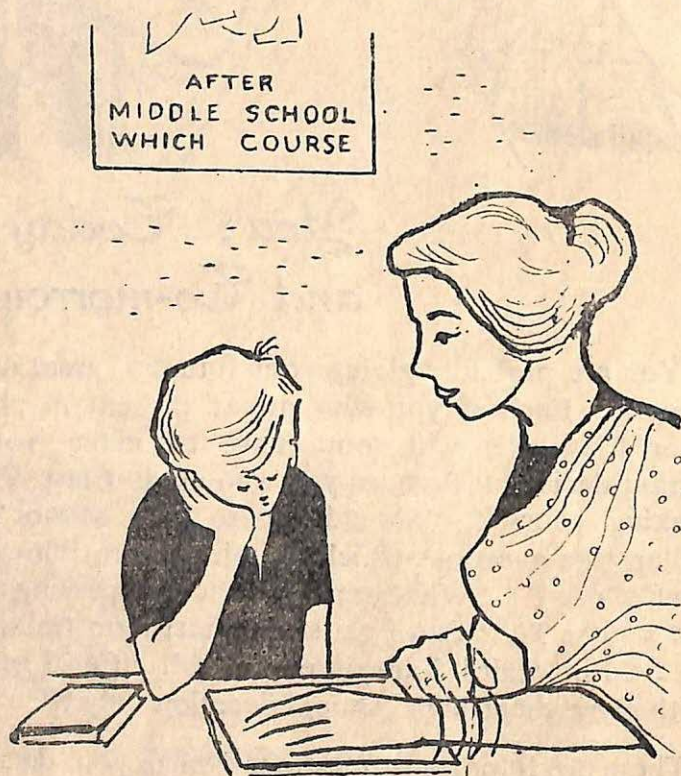
You are probably giving your future a great deal of thought. Each of you who are at present in class VIII or Class XI, will soon have to make some important decisions. Perhaps you who are in Class VIII are asking yourself, "Should I go to high school?", or perhaps the questions which trouble you are "Should I go to College?", "What are my chances of passing my college course?", "Can I get some short-term training in the field in which I am interested?", "Can I get a job with my present high school education only?"

These are important questions—what you decide to do now about these questions will determine the kind

of future you will have. They will have a great deal to do with the kind of work you will be doing, with the way you will feel and the kinds of people with whom you will come in contact.

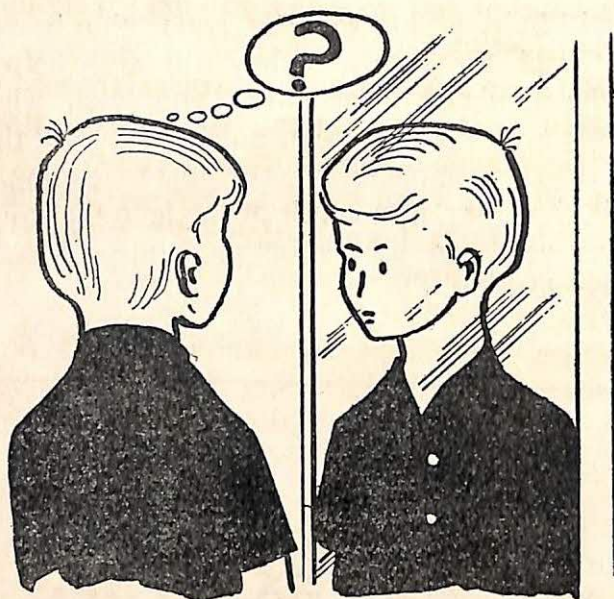
Decisions of this kind, which affect your whole future, are not easy to make, you will agree. There are so many things a person has to know about and think about before he can make up his mind about his further education and career.

To help boys and girls to make sound decisions about their future is the work of guidance counsellors.



Your counsellor can help you to make wise decisions or choices.

They will help you to see the connection between the present and the future. They will also help you to know the kinds of information you need, where you can get it and how you can put together all the facts you have got so that they make some meaning. Thus you will find that, as a result of the help the counsellor has given you, you will be better equipped to make a wise decision.



You Need to Know Yourself

By now perhaps you have realized that you need to know many things before you can make wise decisions about your education in high school or college or about your career.

You need to learn many things about the different courses in high school or college and the different kinds of jobs after you have finished your education and you also need to study yourself.

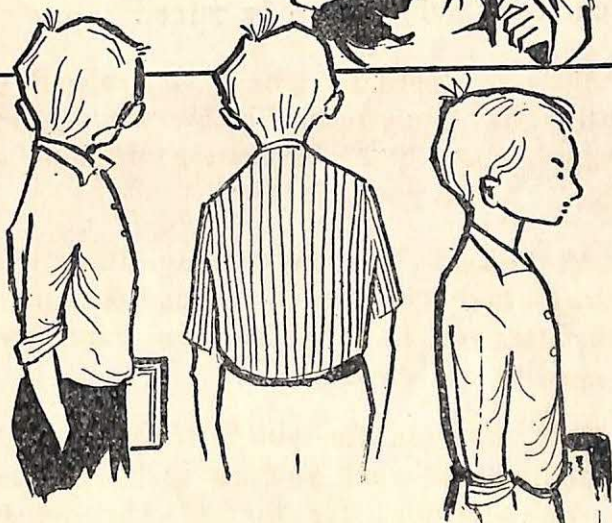
It is important for you to study yourself so that you can find out what you are really like as this will help you determine the kind of work for which you

are best suited and in which you are likely to find the most satisfaction.

Here are a few questions you might ask in order to find out what you are like. "How good a student am I?", "How much and what kind of ability do I have?", "What are my chances of success in high school?", "What things do I enjoy doing?", "What types of experiences are especially hard for me?", "What do I want from a job?"

Once you feel that you know yourself fairly well,

JOIN
THE
ARMY



A job which you find interesting may not suit your friend at all.

then you can look for a vocation that will suit you. People differ a great deal in their interests, their abilities and their desires. It is therefore fortunate that there are many different jobs available from which to choose. And because people differ in what they want, there can be no single standard by which to decide which job is "best" or most interesting. The job which suits you and which you think is best may not suit your friend at all. It would not be good at all for your friend if he decided to choose a job merely because you chose it, nor for you to be influenced by his likes and dislikes. That is a mistake which many young people make, but if you have really taken the trouble to study yourself and know yourself well, you are more likely to make a sound choice.

Since this study of yourself deals with many different aspects of your personality—your abilities, your interests, your values—we shall next discuss each of these aspects and show you how they can affect your choice of subjects or of a career.



You and Your Abilities

People differ in their abilities just as they do in their appearance. At first it was believed that there was just a single ability called general intelligence which was important for success in school or on the job. Nowadays we realize that it is not general intelligence alone but this ability plus other special abilities which are needed for success in different jobs.

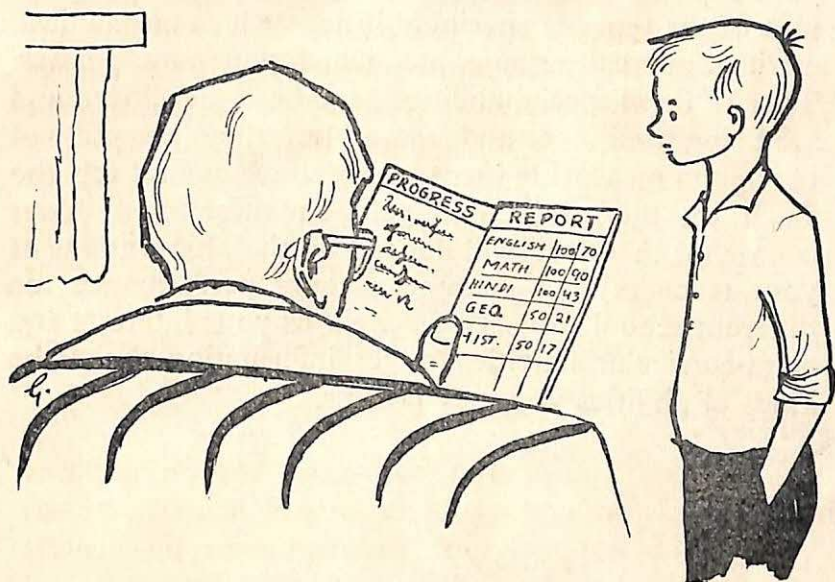
So in making your decisions, the first question you should ask yourself is: "How much general intelligence do I have?" and then: "What kinds of special abilities do I have?"

You will also want to find out what kinds of abilities are likely to be needed for

1. The different school subjects you have to choose for next year—what kinds and amounts of ability are needed for success in the science or the technical course, or again for the humanities or the fine arts group ?
2. Your further education plans—what kinds of abilities does one need to get into medical or engineering college, technical institutes, schools of art or architecture or economics, etc.
3. Different occupations—what kinds of abilities will be needed to become a teacher, nurse, stenographer, journalist, mechanic, pharmacist etc.

Though different abilities are required for success in different types of jobs, there is one kind of ability which is very important for all school work and that is intelligence or scholastic ability. The more of this ability you have the easier it will be for you to get high marks in most of your subjects. You will be able to learn more quickly and to understand better the ideas in the books you have to study. Your chances of success in school and college will be better if you have more of this ability ; you will also be more likely to enter those professions such as law, medicine, teaching or a scientific career which require college education.

There are many ways in which you can find out how much academic ability you have. One way is to look at your school marks.



Your school marks can tell you how much academic ability you have.

Another way would be to take what are known as intelligence or scholastic ability tests and find out what your score is. Your counsellor can arrange for you to take such a test and can tell you the meaning of the score you have made.

You can also ask your parents and teachers to rate you on a scale which has five points marked high, above average, average, below average and low. Though this method is not always too accurate or reliable, it is still worthwhile to get the opinions of those who have been in close contact with you.

Your counsellor will try to get information about your scholastic ability by using all the above methods instead of just one, so as to get as correct a picture of your capacity as possible. He will also try to get some idea of the types of special abilities such as mechanical, clerical, manual, artistic, etc., which you may possess. Tests of these special abilities have been developed and are being used more and more, but they are still not very good measuring instruments so we cannot rely too much on the scores one gets on these tests. Your counsellor therefore will depend on the observations of your teachers and parents, your performance on different school subjects as well as your interests and extra-curricular activities to get information about the kinds of abilities you may possess.



You and Your Interests

In making decisions about his further education or about his field of work, a boy or girl should not only ask himself "What can I do?" but also "What do I want to do?". The first question refers to his ability, the second to his interest.

Your abilities tell you something about your chances of success in a certain activity. Your interests on the other hand have to do with your enjoyment of the activity itself.

Each of you has many interests, many things you already know you like to do. There are many other



Your interests tell you about the things you like to do.

things you may not know you would like because you have not tried them yet. During the next few years in high school you will have many chances to try out new things and thus develop new interests. You will be taking new subjects, reading new books, joining new extra-curricular activities, learning about new occupations. In this way, by being exposed to new activities, you will come to know better the kinds of things you really like and enjoy doing and those in which you are not interested at all.

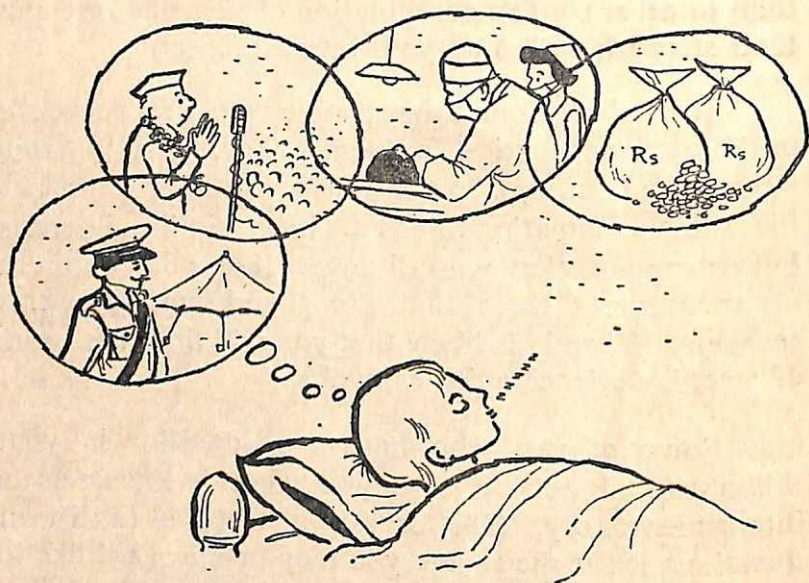
Most people have many interests, rather than just one. In school, for example, you may be interested in history, arithmetic and drawing. Outside of school hours you may like to play badminton, read novels, or listen to music. Then again, although you like doing all these things, your interest in some will be stronger

than in others. The combination of your interests plus their strength makes up your interest pattern.

It has been found that people who are successful in the same occupation frequently have certain strong interests in common. So we can say that people in the same occupation tend to have similar interests. Let us suppose that you discover that your interests are the same as those that are found among science teachers. Then it is likely that you will find the work of teaching science quite enjoyable.

Some of you who have a counsellor in your school can ask him to give you what is known as an interest inventory. This is not a test but a list of questions about the things you may or may not like to do. From the kinds of replies you give, the counsellor can find out your pattern of interests. He can also help you to see which occupations or courses would be good for a person of your interests.

But you must remember that interests may change and that interest is only one thing to consider when making your decisions. You must think of your abilities and your values also.



You and Your Values

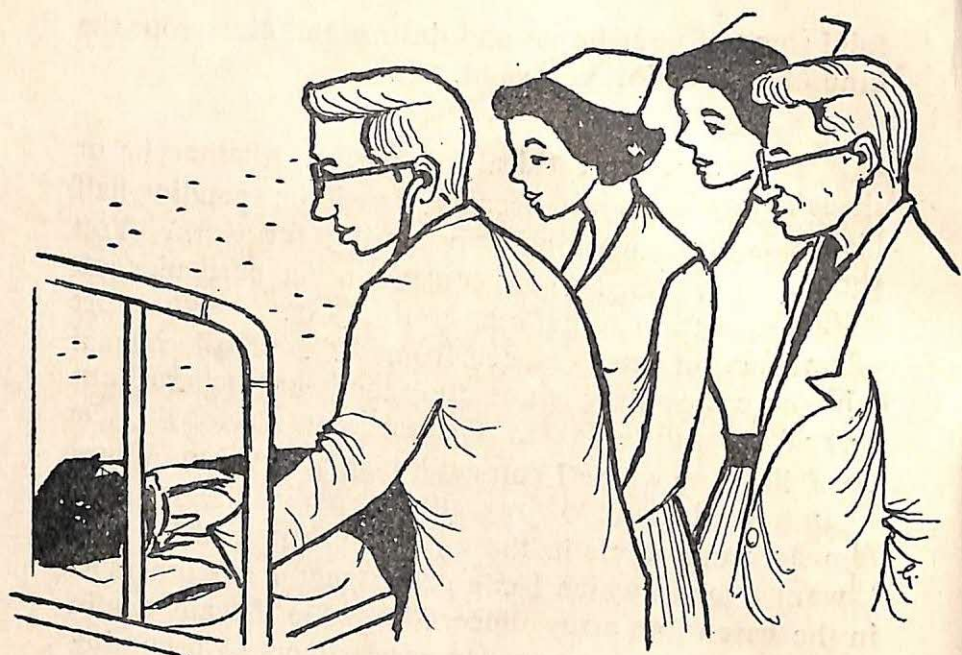
As you make your educational and vocational plans, you should not only examine your abilities and interests but also your values. A person's values tell us how important or worthwhile certain things are to him. By finding out what a person's aims and purposes are, the kinds of wishes and desires he has, the way he looks at certain things, what satisfies him, what is important to him or what he wants most in life, we can have some idea of his values.

When you are making a decision about your subjects of study or choice of a job, it is important for you to know whether it will give you an opportunity to

fulfil some of your hopes and desires and give you the kind of satisfaction you want.

It matters a great deal to a person whether he or she is happy in his job, because he will be spending half his waking time working or preparing for work. You should ask yourself when considering a particular job "What do I want to get out of this job?", "What sort of satisfaction can I expect from it?", "Do I value a job where the salary is not too good but where I am sure of my future, as in Government service?", "Or do I like one where I can get a high salary but where I can never be sure of my future, as in the case of film-stars and others in the entertainment field?", "Do I want a job in which I can get respect from others as in the case of an army officer?" or "Do I want one in which I can have a chance to serve others by becoming a doctor or a teacher or a social worker?"

Some persons, when they talk of a "good" job, are thinking of one in which the salary is high, because to them money is more important than anything else. Others would not call a job good if the work in it is not interesting and does not have much variety, even though the salary may be quite high. Then again, there are those who place a high value on home life and would not think that a job which requires them to travel and live away from home is a "good" one. There are some occupations, like those in the field of private business or research, which are more likely to attract persons who value the opportunity to be independent and to work alone, whereas persons who like to work in a group or a team would be happier working on a



A person who wants to work alone will not be happy in a job that requires team work such as that of a doctor.

job that requires team work. One example might be on the staff of a hospital where doctors who have specialized in different branches of medicine have to consult each other and work in close cooperation with each other and also with the nursing staff.

the ability and the training to do what is required in that occupation. Also, there must be an opening for you or, in other words, there must be someone who is willing to pay for the work you do.

A boy or girl of your age can begin to think of an occupation and make plans for entering it or just go along without any aim. If you decide to make plans, instead of just going through your school days aimlessly, you will want to know how to get the different kinds of facts you need about many occupations—the kind of work done, the conditions of work, the salary, how many workers are needed, the training and abilities required and so on.

Your counsellor can help you to find pamphlets and books which will give you the facts you need about occupations. He will also be able to give you the extra information you may need about a particular occupation or group of occupations.

You may feel that you are not ready to choose an occupation now and that, since you have plenty of time, you would much rather wait. That is true—your final choice of a job will come much later when you are ready to go to work. But it will be quite difficult for you to choose from hundreds of occupations at the last minute, if you don't know much about them. If you decide about a job without having information about it, you cannot be sure that you have the education and training which are required to enter it. You can see therefore why you need to make plans right now and to learn about the many different kinds of jobs there are.

Your school counsellor will give you class talks on the different groups of occupations there are and will be able to tell you about the different subjects you need to study if you want to enter a job in a particular group. He will also be able to tell you how much education or training you need to enter different kinds of occupations—whether you can take up a particular job right after leaving school or whether you need to go to college or if you need to get some short term training in a technical institute or in a factory as an apprentice.

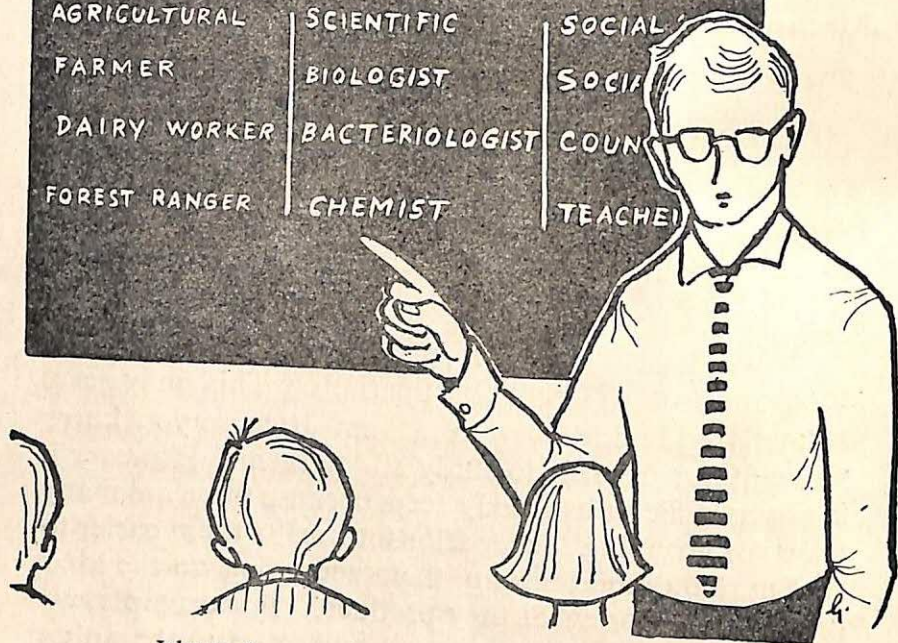
We have said before that there are many thousands of different occupations. This may seem rather frightening to you at first because you know you will not be able to study all of them. However it is not as difficult as it may seem because there are many ways of grouping occupations to make them easier to study. You might group them according to the kind of work done or what they produce. For example, we can say that doctors, nurses and X-ray therapists belong to one group because their work is to make people well. Architects, draughtsmen and interior decorators belong to another group because they all have something to do with the making of houses, offices, factories and buildings of all kinds.

Jobs can also be put into other groups according to the amount of education required, the income they bring for the workers or the interests of the persons in those jobs. You will find below a list of ten job families and the kind of jobs that fall within each family. These families or groups are based on the interests of the workers.



JOB FAMILIES

AGRICULTURAL	SCIENTIFIC	SOCIAL
FARMER	BIOLOGIST	SOCIAL
DAIRY WORKER	BACTERIOLOGIST	COUN
FOREST RANGER	CHEMIST	TEACHER



Jobs can be grouped together to make them easier to study.

Job Family

Outdoor-Agricultural

Athletic

Artistic—Musical

Clerical

Kinds of Jobs

Farmer, dairy worker,
forest ranger

Games teacher, playground
director, athletic coach

Actor, commercial artist,
textile designer, music
teacher

Clerk in office or bank,
book-keeper, statistician

Literary	Newspaper editor, reporter, poet, critic
Mechanical	Welder, toolmaker, engineer, draughtsman
Personal Service	Hotel manager, hair dresser, airplane hostess, receptionist
Persuasive	Lawyer, salesman, politician advertising worker
Scientific	Biologist, bacteriologist, chemist
Social Service	Teacher, scout leader, social worker, school counsellor

In each job family there are jobs which require different amounts of education and training. That means that whatever your mental ability and whether you go to college or not, you can still find a job to suit your interest. For example, a boy who has high mechanical interest and also ability to do this kind of work but who cannot afford to go to college, may with short-term training or apprenticeship still find work to suit him as an auto mechanic, a machine operator, a toolmaker or in one of the many types of skilled mechanical jobs which are available to-day in factories and workshops.

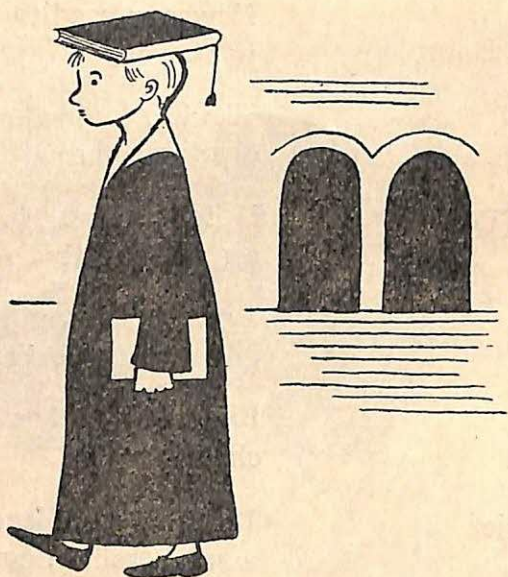
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S. C. H. B. V. West Bengal

Date

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You and Your Education

Since you will have to make important decisions about your education this year, you will want to know something about the choices open to you and where they may lead in the future.

Important changes are taking place in the education of children in our country. Boys and girls like you, who are going to school these days, will benefit from these changes.

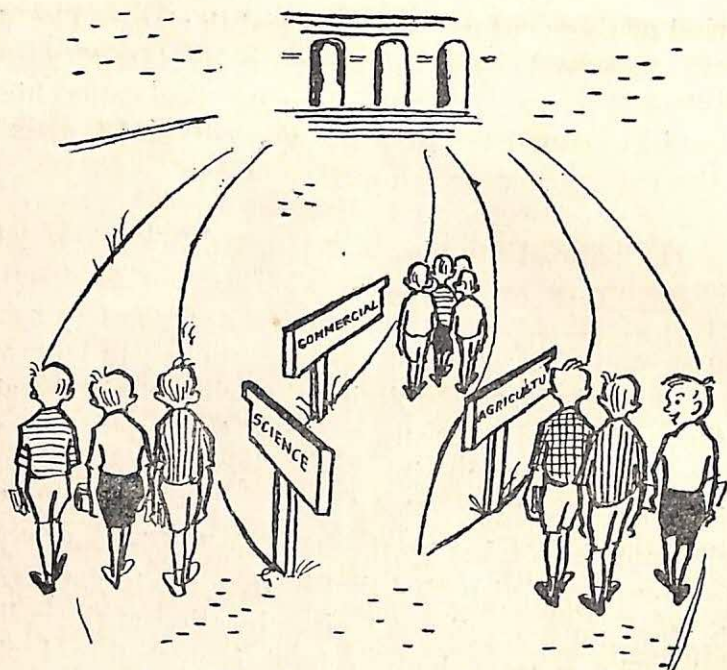
Instead of the old two-year high school course in which the students were taught only academic subjects, the new pattern of secondary education will cover a

period of three years after the eighth class. The final year of school for you will therefore be class XI instead of class X as at present. If you begin the higher secondary course at 14 years you will be 17 years old at the time you leave school.

You will, we think, be interested to know why this change has been introduced. The aim of the new system of education is to make the secondary school course complete in itself so that those students who leave school after completing the course will be able, if they wish, to take up a job. At present, as you know, this is not possible, as most employers do not think that the high school course prepares a student well enough to take up the responsibilities of a job. Most students also feel that if they are to get a good job, they must continue their education at the college level. The present high school is therefore looked upon by all as merely preparing a student for college.

The new higher secondary course is meant to improve this situation. The extra year in school and the new type of courses which it will provide will prepare students to take their place in the world of work, by giving them enough knowledge and practical experience to do a good job. Because of the extra year, they will also be a little more mature.

Another change which has been introduced into secondary education is the diversified curriculum. The schools which will provide these diversified courses will be known as multipurpose schools : these schools will offer both academic or theoretical and practical courses. There will be, in all, seven diversified courses,



As a student in a Multipurpose school you can choose any one of several groups of subjects.

though in any one school you may have a choice of only three or four courses. As a student in a multipurpose school, you may choose any one of the following courses or groups of subjects :—

- (i) Humanities
- (ii) Science
- (iii) Technical
- (iv) Commercial
- (v) Agriculture
- (vi) Fine Arts
- (vii) Home Science.

You will have to study three subjects from any one of the above groups. In addition to these three subjects

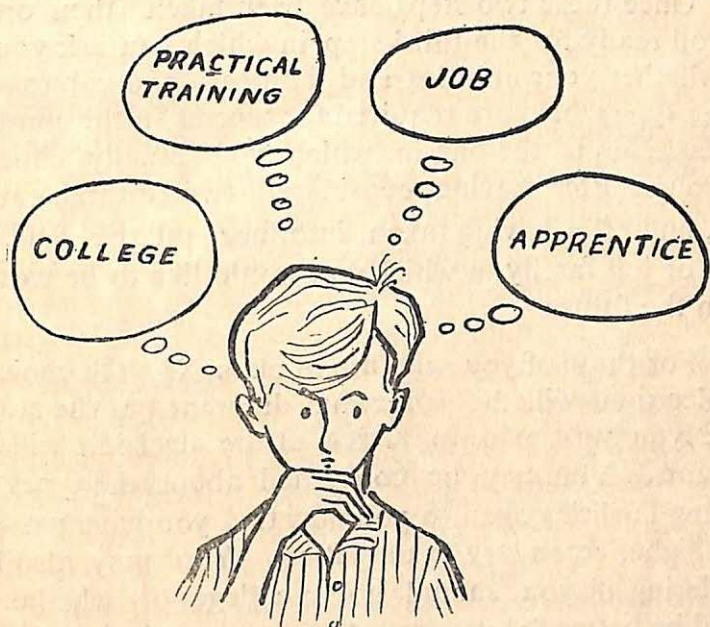
which you are free to choose, you will all have to study some common subjects which are known as the core subjects :

- (i) Languages Hindi or regional language
or mother tongue and
English
- (ii) Social Studies
- (iii) General Science
- (iv) Crafts.

You may like to know the advantage of these new types of courses. The first advantage is that there will be no distinction made between the students who are preparing for the different kinds of courses. Therefore those of you who are studying vocational or practical subjects need not feel inferior. The course you have chosen is important for you and is also needed in our industrial economy. Then again, by providing a variety of courses, it will offer you an opportunity of making a choice in keeping with your abilities and interests and your future plans for a career. For example, if you are planning to become a draughtsman or a surveyor and have the necessary abilities, you may join the technical course in the multipurpose school and then later take up some short term training in an industrial school. If, on the other hand, a student is interested in outdoor life and loves animals, he can prepare for work in the field of agriculture or dairy farming by taking up the agriculture course. In the same way, a girl who does not plan on a career but is interested in making a home can take up the domestic science course and learn many useful things. In the old type of high school, all these students would have perhaps taken up the same course in humanities or

perhaps they would have been obliged to leave school after class VIII.

In a multipurpose school you have another advantage. You can change from one group to another if you find that you have made a mistake. Of course, you must make this change quite early so as not to have to make up too much extra work in your new course. It must be made within the first six months of your first year in the multipurpose school, that is in class IX. However, if you plan carefully when you are in class VIII and seek the advice of your school counsellor, or your teacher if there is no counsellor in your school, you are less likely to make a wrong choice.

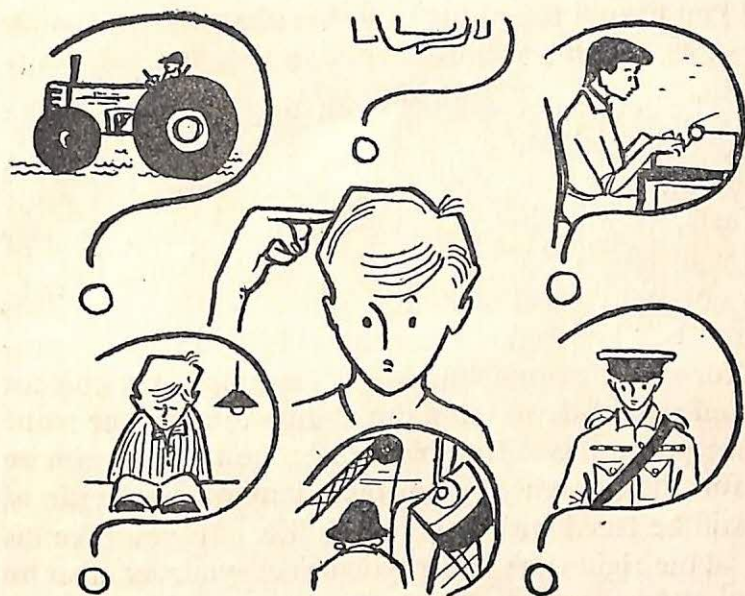


You and Your Choice

By now we are sure you have realized that you cannot make any choice intelligently unless you know enough about the things which you have to choose. When it comes to making a choice of courses which you must take in class IX, you must first know all about the kinds of courses there are, the subjects offered in each course, the relationship of the course to the field of work in which you are interested and the kinds of further training you can take after completing a particular course. Besides this, you must also know yourself—your abilities, interests and values.

Once these two steps have been taken, then only are you ready for the third step, in which you ask yourself whether your abilities and interests and values are of the type which are required for success in the course. The last step is the one in which you actually choose one course after having considered two or three carefully, and after having taken into account the field of work or job family in which you would like to be working in the future.

For those of you who are in class XI, the choices and decisions will be somewhat different but the steps which you must take to arrive at the decision will be the same. You may be concerned about the types of training facilities open to you now that you have passed your higher secondary examination. You may also be wondering if you should go to college or whether it would be better for you to get some practical training in an industrial institute. May be you are wondering what are the kinds of jobs which a graduate in commerce or agriculture can get, or perhaps you would like to know what are the kinds of abilities, interest, training etc., which are required for the different courses in the field of social welfare or in the technical field. To answer all these questions, you will need information about the kinds of training facilities and job opportunities. You will also need to know about yourself before you can take the next step of matching yourself with three or four jobs which you think you might enjoy, and then finally selecting the one which suits you best. It is true that you need not take these last two steps now. It is better that you do not make any definite decisions about the job that you will be taking up till much later. But you should start thinking and plan-



Before you select any one job, you must match yourself with many jobs and see which one suits you best.

ning in a systematic way and should make use of every opportunity to gather the right kind of information. In this way you will have the facts at hand to make a wise choice when the right time comes.

Your school counsellor or career master will be there to assist you with each of the steps you have been reading about—he will be able to show you where and how you can get information about courses and training facilities, about the various jobs in each of the different fields and their requirements. He will also help you to know yourself. With his help you will be able to narrow down your choice to two or three specific jobs within a particular field of work. Once you have chosen the broad field or area in which you would like to work, the choice of the particular job can wait

until you have finished high school or college or whatever other training you are planning to take.

The counsellor will help you to get facts, but the final decision will in every case be made by you. He will be there to show you the correct method of using the facts, he will discuss your difficulties and problems with you and offer you various suggestions, but he does not and cannot make up your mind for you. This you must do yourself. The counsellor's job is to provide for you the opportunity of learning to think for yourself and of developing the ability to shoulder your own responsibility. In other words, he tries to prepare you for making these and the many other decisions, you will be faced with later on in life. If you take his help at the right time and if you select your courses in school and college carefully after proper planning, we think you can look forward to a bright future in which you will be working at a job which you will not only enjoy but in which you can hope to be a success.

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